Secta. II-27—100,000—21-5-48.

(1948) Department

SERIES.

G.O. No. 1560

Dated 30-5-48

[Desnatch Abstract.]

Legislative Assembly Question - Agriculture - Grow More Food - Supply of Pumpsets to cultivators - particulars Papers Recorded.

SUPPLY OF PUMPS-SETS TO CULTIVATORS. Dated 17-9-1949.

*67-Question - Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillari: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be please to state:-

(a) whether the Government are giving pump-sets for hire to cultivators in pursuance of the Grow More Food Campaign;

(b) if so, how many sets of pumps have been given and how many applications are pending;

(c) whether it is a fact that the hire was fixed at Rs. 10 per mensem for each pump-set;

(d) what is the cost of production per acre in Government Agricultural Farms from ploughing to harvesting of paddy; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Government have enhanced the rates of hire from Rs. 10 to Rs. 75 without giving notice; if so, why?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:- "(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(b) The number of pump-sets given on hire from January to June 1947 is shown below:-

Month	Petrol engine sets	Oil engine sets.	Tractor trailer sets.
January 1947	550	2	6
February 1947	580	2	6
March 1947	622	2	5
April 1947	602	3	6
May 1947	584	3	2
June 1947	605	4	2

"No applications for hiring of petrol engine sets are pending in the office of the Director of Agriculture. The District Agricultural Officers are empowered to receive such applications from ryots and allot petrol sets on hire according to the priority of applications. As regards oil engine and electric motor pump sets the following number of applications for purchases are pending in the office of the Director of Agriculture:-

	Number of applications pending.
Oil engine pump sets	850
Electric Motor Pump sets	630
	1,480

"(c) The hire for petrol-driven pump sets was fixed at annas 8 per day subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 per mensem as a concessional measure. This concession lapsed on 5th March 1947 but it has since been extended up to 30th September 1948.

"(d) The average cost of production of paddy is Rs. 120 per acre.

"(e) The hire rate of Rs. 10 per mensem was only concessional in the case of petrol pumps. When this conce-

ssion lapsed, the normal rate of Rs. 75 per mensem prescribed for oil engine pump sets was intimated by a District Agricultural Officer under the impression that the ryots concerned had oil engines with them, while in fact they had only petrol pump sets. The Director of Agriculture has since rectified the mistake."

Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai:- "May I Know, Sir, whether the Government is selling any pump sets to the agriculturists and if so at what rate and how many pumps were sold?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:- "We are selling oil and electric motor pump sets. As and when orders are placed they are executed."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB Bahadur:- "Is the Hon. Minister aware of a statement made by the Hon.Minister for Food that the Grow More Food Campaign in the Madras Province was a failure and in view of that is not the money spent in this matter a huge waste?"

THE HON. SRI K. KADHAVA MENON:- "It is a matter of Opinion, Sir."

Sri N.S. Varadachari:- "Are the Government aware, Sir, that much of the petrol issued for these petrol pumps is being sold as petrol in the black-market and not being used for agricultural purposes?".

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:- "The Government received certain complaints like that and on enquiry it was found that out of the 605 pumps that were working there were two cases of bad dealings like that."

Sri V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:- "May I Know what steps have the Government taken to acquire oil and electric pumping sets and to supply them to the agriculturists and are they in a position to give the figures as to the numbers that have been so supplied?".

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: - "I cannot at present give the number of sets sold but a considerable, number has been sold. As I said the number of applications for purchase pending with the Government for oil engines is 850 and for electric motor pump sets it is 630. We have placed orders with the firms and we are expecting them very soon."

Sri V.C. Panaiswami Gounder:- "May I ask the Government, Sir, that in view of the scarcity of petrol in this Province will it be pleased to consider the question of ordering for more number of diesel oil engines of the portable type which can be easily managed and because it will be less costly?".

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:- "That is exactly what we have done, Sir."

Sri N.S. Varadachari:- "Are the Government aware that petrol is being issued to pumps which are not in working order?".

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: - "No such thing has come to the notice of the Government yet, Sir."

Sri V.C. Panaiswami Gounder:-"May I know whether the Government will order for more number of diesel oil portable type engines instead of petrol engines which are costly and are liable to be misused?".

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: -"We have already ordered for diesel oil engines.

Sri V. Raghavayya:- "May I know whether the Government has not taken any action even though the District Agricultural Officer, Nellore, reported that most of the sets were used for receiving petrol and not for agricultural purposes?".

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:-"I have not yet seen any report from the District Agricultural Officer, Nellore, like that, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER:- "Question hour is over. The Anwers to the rest of the questions will be printed in the proceedings.

To A.G.

Please see the extract of printed proceedings on page 3 above. No action is called for with reference to the supplementary questions and answers given thereto. The papers may be recorded in a G.O.

(Sd) . . . . . .

26-3-1948.

G.O. Ms. No. 1560 Dated 30-3-1948.

Abstract:- Legislative Assembly question - Agriculture - Grow More Food - Supply of pumpsets to cultivators particulars - Papers Recorded.

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24/7.